GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5777
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
LIFTING OF SANCTIONS
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Sign CTBT, curbs will go: US` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated March 24, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) & (c) The US imposed certain restrictive economic measures on India following our nuclear tests, on the basis of US domestic law. In our bilateral discussions, we have conveyed that such unilateral, coercive measures are unjustified and counterproductive. Although some of these measures have already been lifted, we continue to maintain that all such measures should be removed in order to create a positive environment. Government`s position on the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. Government`s position on the CTBT continues to be based on considerations of national security and national interest alone.